(b) whether it is a fact that there is no post office within a distance of 4 k.m. from Kota Giwai;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a large number of residents of these villages are in defence forces, posted at distant places;

(d) if so, whether Government would give top priority for opening of post office at Kota Giwai in Almorah District; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof and if not what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) and (e) The proposal for opening an extra departmental branch post office at Kota Giwai in Almora district of U.P. is under consideration.

Telecom Services in West and East Godavari Districts of Andhra Pradesh

6143. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any programme to improve basic telecome services in rural areas in West Godavari and East Godavari districts of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are frequent breakdowns of telephone services in such areas; and

(c) what directions have been issued to the local Telecom officers to tour their areas and increase monitoring of phone lines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes, Sir, The basic services in these districts will be improved by upgrading the existing telecom network, installation of electronic exchanges and providing stable transmission media.

(b) No, Sir. There are no frequest breakdowns.

(c) Standing instructions are there in the matter of inspections. Inspectipns/ visits are being carried out by the officers to monitor the functioning of telecom services.

Transfer of Officials in DOT

6144. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3504 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 26th April, 1995 and state:

(a) whether Government have received a spate of representations from the officers serving in DOT establishments in Bombay and Calcutta against transfer orders during the last five months, because they have much less period to attain the age of retirement;

(b) whether such transfer orders were issued despite the then DGP&T's guidelines of March 1982 and/or by sheer mistake about their balance period of service left;

(c) whether Government would immediately rescind/cancel such orders, recalling the transfers to other stations or transfer the posts, in order to facilitate retirement of the affected officers from the locations where they were before the last five months;

(d) whether delay is likely to cause hazards on their health due to series of problems; and

(e) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir. However transfer orders in public interest can be issued even if the officials are due to retire within two years.

(b) to (e) In view of answer to (a) above question does not arise.